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SCANLATION RANDOM

THE • VISION • OF
ESCAFLOWNE
2
Katsu Aki

Manga
Sci-Fi/Fantasy
USA $9.99

THE • VISION • OF ESCAFLOWNE™

Hitomi and Prince Van, in an attempt to learn more about Hitomi's abilities, visit the people of Ubdo with the aid of Alien Schezar — but the ancient Ubdo inhabitants are less than welcoming. After battles within and outside the land of the Holy Spring, Hitomi learns more of the Energist power she's bestowed with. The party returns to Asturia, only to run into trouble with a band of Fanelian survivors. Their leader — the female warrior Shian — despises Prince Van for his failure to protect his country. An unsteady alliance must be formed as the patriots travel to Zaibach to rescue their queen...

100% AUTHENTIC MANGA

OT
OLDER TEEN
AGE 16+

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ESCAFLOWNE

2

Aki Katsu

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天空のエスカフローネ

ESCAFLOWNE

2

THE VISION OF ESCAFLOWNE

INTRODUCTION

"Tenkuu no Escaflowne" ("Escaflowne of the Heavens," or "The Vision of Escaflowne" in North America) began as a story in the minds of Hajime Yatate and Shoji Kawamori, two brilliant creators who planned Hitomi's epic tale to appear as an animated television series. While most anime series begin as manga, Escaflowne's two manga series were built off the ideas developed for the anime. Yuzuru Yashiro's shoujo, or "girl's" manga, is two volumes in length. In contrast, Katsu Aki's shonen, or "boy's" manga, is much longer and happens to be the version you now hold in your hands.

Aki-sensei handled both the art and writing for this title, and it was actually the first version of Escaflowne to reach the public. While based on the concept of the anime, it began its serialization before the anime was complete. This version of the Escaflowne tale has a different flavor than the television series, with more action, tweaked character design, and an altered story. As a result, it is difficult to closely compare the two–they are simply two different versions of Hitomi's adventures. Escaflowne's versatility has always fetched great praise over the years. Its manga counterparts only expand the work's reach and deepen its universe. With that in mind, please put aside all preconceptions you may have as you sit back, relax, and enjoy this new look at the world of Escaflowne like you've never seen it before.

Lianne Sentar, April 2003

Special thanks to Egan Loo and his Escaflowne Compendium (http://www.anime.net/escaflowne/).

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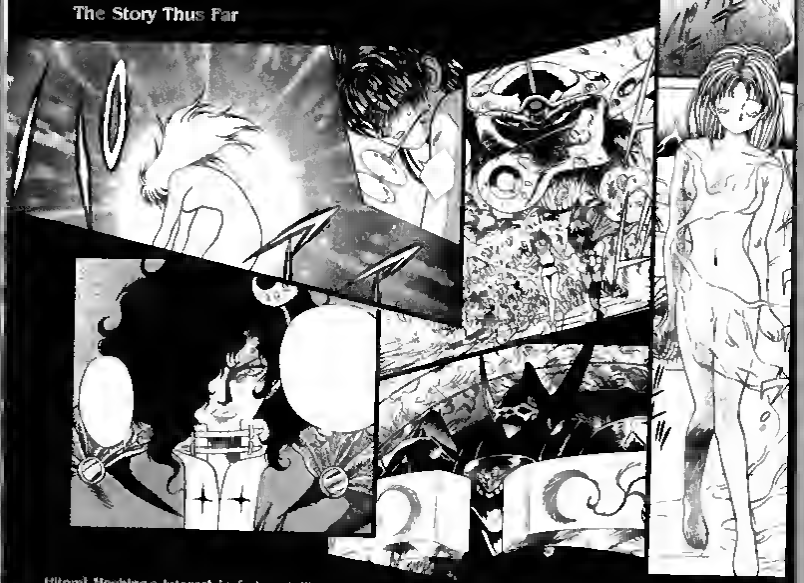
The Story Thus Far



Hitomi Hoshino's interest in fortune-telling was both simple and innocent—until she started having strange recurring visions of a prince and a jewel. A routine reading resulted in Hitomi's soul being snatched from her body and, when she awoke, she found herself in the strange land of Gaea—the very place that she had seen in her visions! The beautiful jewel Energist formed her body and left her panting on a mysterious temple's floor.

But not everything was quite so poetic. The prince she'd seen in her dreams turned out to be a rash, hot headed, and rather short teenager named Van. The magic of his country (Fanelia) had selected Hitomi to be the Energist power of their mechanical god Escaflowne. As Van tried to push Hitomi into her new role of robot fuel, Fanelia was attacked by the aggressive Zaibach Empire. Hitomi managed to power Escaflowne to save her life and Van's, but the Zaibach warrior Dilandau killed Captain Balgus, kidnapped Queen Escaflna and flattened Fanelia.

During some dangerous run-ins with Zaibach and Dilandau, Hitomi and Van gained the aid of the Asturian knight Allen Schezar. It was decided that, in order to save Van's mother and stop Zaibach's ruthless attacks on their nations, Hitomi's power needed to be better utilized. In an attempt to do this, Hitomi, Van, and Allen set out on a dangerous journey to the Holy Spring Ubdo to ask its inhabitants the secret of the Energist. .

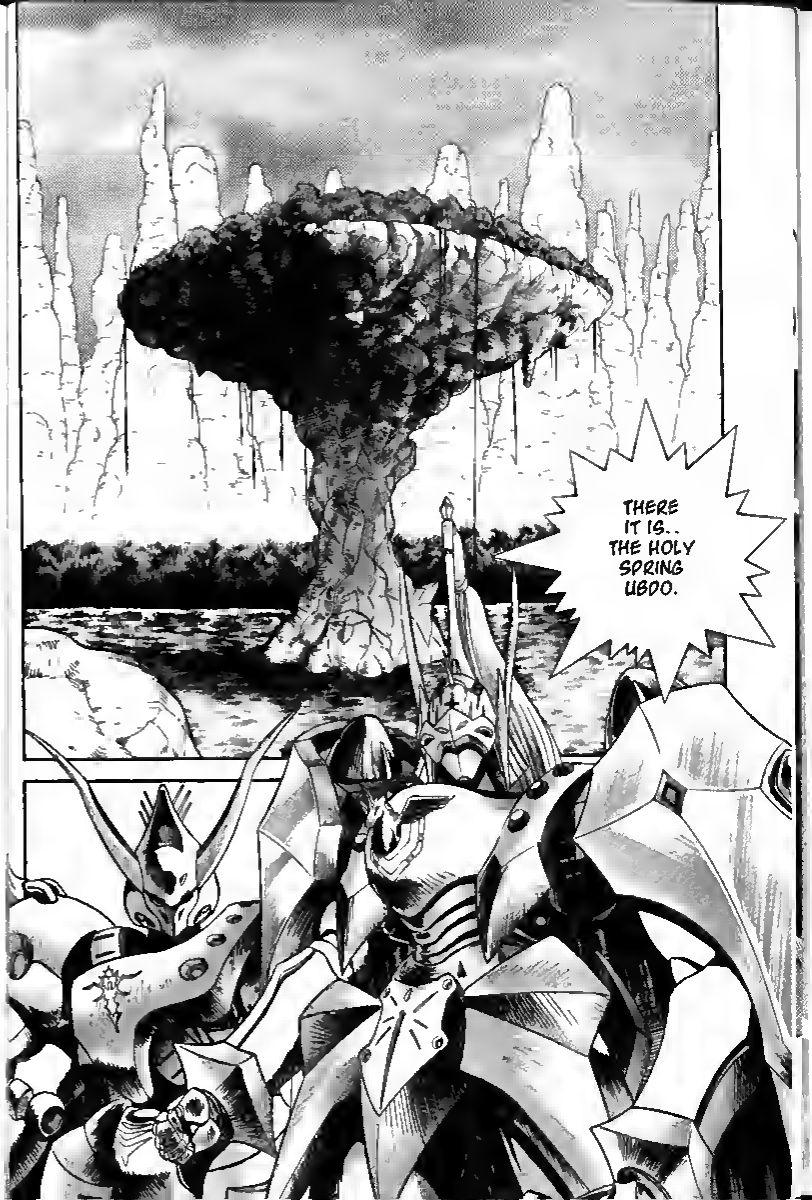
CONTENTS

Secrets of the Holy Spring
Trial by Fire
Familiar Faces
Deadly Passion
Dalmascan Confrontation

Dilandau's Knight Machine
Equipped with a Stealth Cloak and piloted by Dilandau, it attacked Fanelia, killed Baigus, kidnapped Escalina, and lost an arm to Escaflowne.
Knight of Flame
One of the most powerful Knight Machines in the Zaibach Empire, the Knight of Flame is Zaibach's top assassin.
Dilandau
Executive Captain of the Zaibach Empire, Dilandau Albatou kidnapped Queen Escalina to learn the secret of the Energist.
Escaflowne
A powerful Knight Machine piloted by Van and powered by Hitomi. Escaflowne is both the protector and deity of the people of Fanelia.
Scherazade
A legendary Knight Machine piloted by Allen Schezar VIII.
Hitomi
An ordinary girl who loves reading fortunes. Hitomi Hoshino's soul was involuntarily transported from the Earth to Fanelia to be the source of Escaflowne's power.
Poker
Grand Chamberlain of Fanelia and often Van's supervisor. Poker was rescued from under Fanelia's ruins.
Escalina
Queen of Fanelia and Van's mother, Escalina was kidnapped by Dilandau in order to learn the secrets of the Energist.
Balgus
Captain of the Knights of the Kingdom of Fanelia and Van's mentor, Gran Balgus was killed protecting Van from Dilandau.
Allen
Head of the Knights Caell of the Asturian Royal House and pilot of Scherazade. Allen Schezar VIII broke Asturia's non-aggression treaty with the Zaibach Empire by protecting Van and Hitomi
Van
Prince of the Kingdom of Fanelia and pilot of Escaflowne. Van Stanzar de Fanelia seeks vengeance against the Zaibach Empire for destroying his homeland and kidnapping his mother.

VISION 5:
SECRETS OF THE HOLY SPRING

QUIT SCARING THE GIRL. IF WE GOT THIS FAR, WE'RE SET!
WHAT IS THAT THING? IS IT AN ISLAND?
BE ON YOUR GUARD THIS PLACE IS ANCIENT
IT'S PROBABLY WHERE THE INHABITANTS LIVE.
LET'S MOVE!


THERE IT IS.. THE HOLY SPRING UBDO.

DON'T GET DISTRACTED, VAN
MAN, CHECK OUT ALL THE ENERGISTS!
VRR-CLACK
WHAT THE HELL?
DAMMIT! BY WHO?!
WE'RE TRAPPED!
WH-WHAT WAS THAT?
AAH!
THE PLACE IS ABANDONED.
NO ONE'S BEEN HERE IN YEARS.
KINDA A LETDOWN, HUH?
SHUT UP.
THAT... DOESN'T EVEN MAKE SENSE, VAN.
LET US OUT BEFORE I SHOVE YOUR BARRIER UP YOUR ASS!
YOU'RE WITHIN A HOLY BARRIER, FOUL-MOUTHED INVADER

IT WAS PUT IN FANELIA'S CARE TO BE USED ONLY IN TIMES OF CRISIS.
YEARS AGO, UBOO RELEASED A SINGLE ENERGIST INTO THE RACE OF MEN.
YOU .. YOU MUST BE THE ENERGIST OF FANELIA.
WHO, ME?
WE NEED TO KNOW HOW THE ENERGIST WORKS!
THE CRISIS IS RIGHT OUTSIDE YOUR DOOR, GRAMPS.
WATCH YOURSELF, CHILD!
TELL US ITS SECRETS SO WE CAN TAKE DOWN ZAIBACH AND SAVE MY MOTHER!

FINE THEN. I AM ELDER LAGUSU.
VISITORS SEEKING INFORMATION, ARE YOU?
WE'RE PROTECTED IN UBOO BY ENERGIST.
WE ARE THE DESCENDANTS OF THE HOLY SPRING.
Hoh
HE'S JUST AN OLD COOT. I WASN'T SCARED.
GEE, THANKS. THOSE LOUSY ROCKS NEARLY OFFED US!
I'M SURPRISED YOU COULD BREAK THROUGH THE WALLS OF ROCK. THEY'RE ENERGIST-MADE AND ALIVE WITH ANCIENT SOULS.
THEY KEEP UNWANTED VISITORS OUT.

VAN, WAIT!
FINE, GRAMPS! DON'T SAY I DIDN'T WARN YOU.
COME AT ME WITH YOUR SWORD, GREENHORN. ALL I NEED ARE MY BARE HANDS!
HMPH!
BE CAREFUL, OLD MAN!
WHAT? DID HE JUST... CATCH IT?

WHAT TAKES PLACE OUT THERE IS NOT OUR CONCERN
UBDO IS A PEACEFUL PLACE. MY PEOPLE HAVE NO CONTACT WITH THE OUTSIDE WORLD.
...THE INNOCENTS OF GAEA ARE DYING!
WHILE YOU LIVE IN PEACE
GET THAT THROUGH YOUR ROTTING SKULL!
SETTLE DOWN
GRRGH! OUR CAUSE IS NOBLE, SHITHEAD. NOBLE!
YOU'RE GONNA FIGHT ME? DO YOU EVEN HAVE A HIP?
HUH?
SHOULD YOU WIN, I WILL REVEAL THE ENERGIST'S SECRETS.
VERY WELL THEN, I CHALLENGE YOU TO A DUEL.
.....

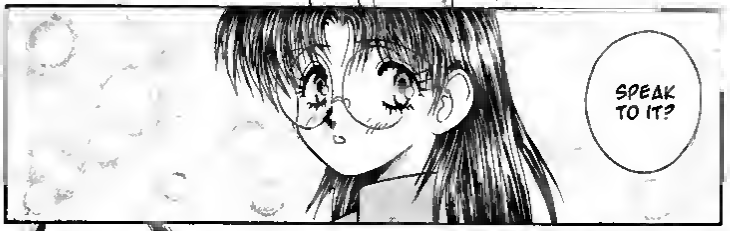
Grah!
AAGH!
VAN, ARE YOU OKAY?!

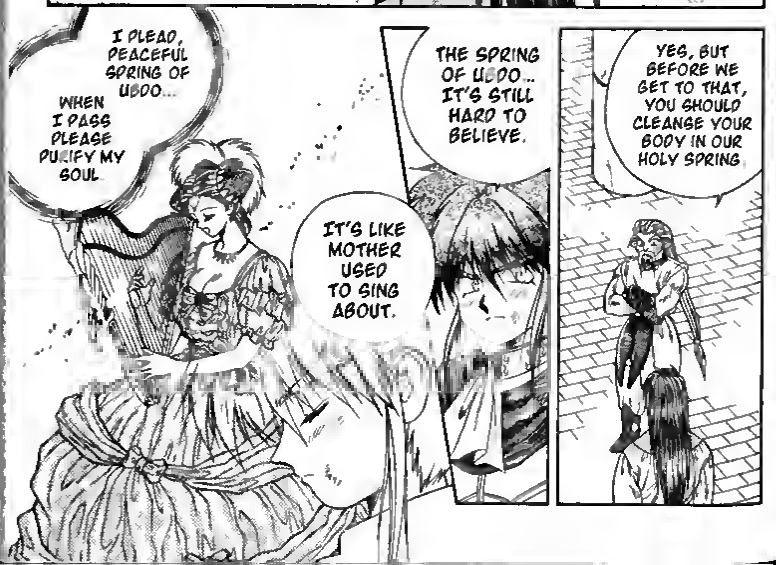
S-STUPID OLD--
DE FALA JI EN HOROS!
GAH!
WHAT THE HELL?!

MAN... WHO ARE YOU?
YOUR TALENTS NEED POLISHING, YOUNG MAN.
WAH!
WATCH YOUR BACK!
VAN'S PRIDE'S GOING DOWN THE PIPES AGAIN.
THIS IS USELESS. VAN CAN'T EVEN COMPARE
WHAT'S WRONG? DONE ALREADY?
HUFF
HAH

I LOST THE REAL HAND DURING TRAINING AND HAD IT REPLACED WITH THIS.
MY RIGHT HAND IS MADE OF ENERGIST.
SO, ARE YOU SCARED?
W-WOW!
CRAP TOUGH OLD FART.
HO!
YOU'VE ALREADY TRIED THAT.
HELL NO! EAT IT!

WHATEVER YOU HOPE, WHATEVER YOU WISH, IT WILL PROVIDE.
FROM NOW ON, YOU SPEAK TO THE ENERGIST.


SPEAK TO IT?


I PLEAD, PEACEFUL SPRING OF UDDO... WHEN I PASS PLEASE PURIFY MY SOUL.
THE SPRING OF UDDO... IT'S STILL HARD TO BELIEVE.
IT'S LIKE MOTHER USED TO SING ABOUT.
YES, BUT BEFORE WE GET TO THAT, YOU SHOULD CLEANSE YOUR BODY IN OUR HOLY SPRING.

HEY!
YOU'RE RELYING ON YOUR ENERGIST TOO MUCH.
WATCH YOUR HANDS, PERV.
YOU COULDA SAID THAT AT THE START
YOU HAVE A LONG WAY TO GO, PRINCE OF FANELIA.

Y-YES?
SORRY, MISS. YOU WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT HARNESSING THE POWER OF THE ENERGIST?

RIGHT.
UNTIL NOW YOU'VE WAITED FOR IT TO ADDRESS YOU, CORRECT?

ZAIBACH'S METHODS ARE INEFFECTIVE. ENERGIST HAS THE CAPABILITY OF 100% EFFICIENCY.
YET ZAIBACH'S UTILIZING TECHNIQUES ARE LESS THAN 10% EFFICIENT.
THROUGH THE USE OF DISTANT VISIONS, WE'RE SOMEWHAT AWARE OF THIS.
BUT AREN'T YOU A STRANGE ONE, ALLEN SCHEZAR. LEAVING YOUR OWN KINGDOM...
THEY ALSO POLLUTE THE PLANET WITH THE FUEL THEY DISCARD
PRINCE VAN, COME WITH ME!
HUH?
MY WORD! I'D ALMOST FORGOTTEN!
ELDER LAGUSU, WHAT IS ENERGIST?
THIS FUEL IS THE LEGACY OF OUR CIVILIZATION. IT LIES SEVERAL THOUSAND KILOMETERS BELOW SEA LEVEL ON GAEA.
AH ENERGIST IS CRYSTALLIZED "SUPER FUEL"
THEN ZAIBACH'S TAPPED INTO THAT LEGACY ALREADY.
BOTH THEIR KNIGHT MACHINES AND MY SCHERAZADE ARE POWERED BY ENERGIST.
.....

MY BODY'S BACK ON EARTH.
BUT THIS ISN'T REALLY MY BODY ANYWAY, RIGHT?
MY SCAR IS DISAPPEARING. IS THAT THE POWER OF THE SPRING?
?!
TAKE A LOOK THROUGH HERE.
HEY, WAIT!
HURRY UP!
YOU I..
NICE VIEW, EH?
TH-THIS IS WRONG GOTTA LOOK AWAY. GOTTA LOOK... AWAY...
WAH!
HOLY SPRING, MY ASS!
Hghi
HEY! IS SOMEONE THERE?!

WH-WHAT'S THIS PICTURE IN MY HEAD?
A BLACK FLAME, AND A GIANT OF... FIRE?

HAS SHE ALREADY GAINED THE VISIONARY POWERS OF THE ENERGIST?
THAT GIRL BRIEFLY SLIPPED INTO A TRANCE.

IT'S HAPPENING AGAIN. CAN I SEE THE FUTURE, OR IS IT THE SPRING?

HUH? OH, I JUST HATE YOUR GUTS.
HEY, YOU OKAY?

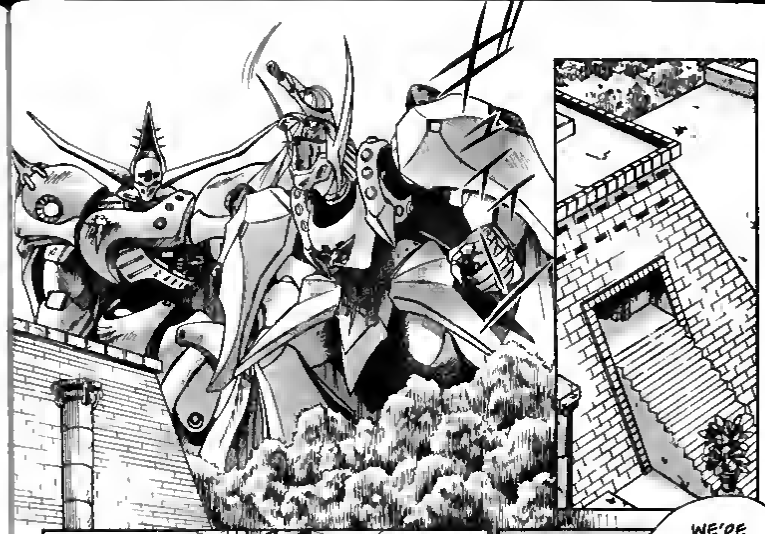
DIRTY, HORRIBLE LECH!
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU'D DO THIS TO ME!
I WAS, UH... MAKING SURE YOU DION'T... DROWN.
YOU'RE THE WORST PERSON I'VE MET, EVER!
I TOLD YOU! I WAS LOOKING AT YOU--ERR, OUT FOR YOU.

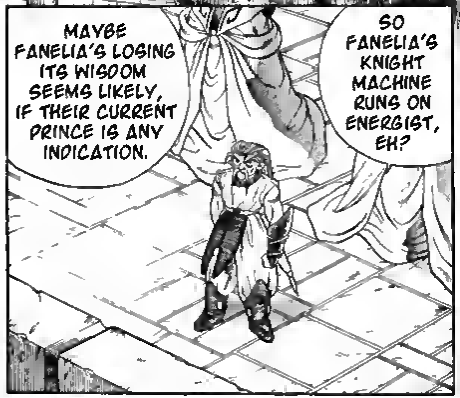
HUH?

ZAIBACH WILL BE AFTER THEM. KEEP THEM FROM SUCCEEDING.
THERE ARE THREE REMAINING PLACES THAT HARBOR "SUPER FUEL" ON THIS PLANET.

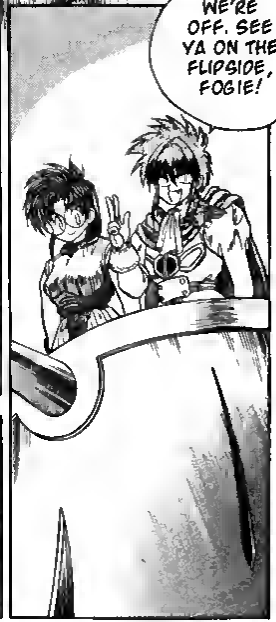
UNDER-STOOD, ELDER.

VAN, HITOMI, LET'S GO!
RIGHT!
I HOPE THAT YOUNG PRINCE PROVES ME WRONG. HE *DOES* HAVE THE DAUGHTER OF THE ENERGIST...

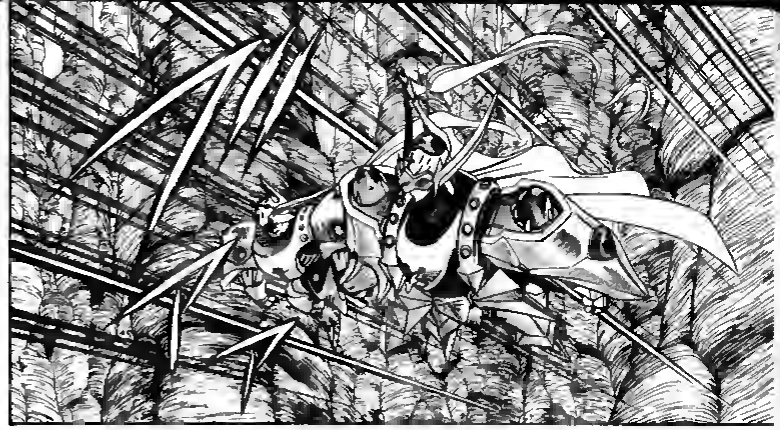


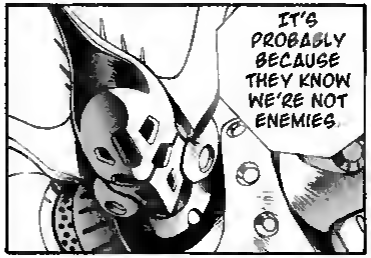

MAYBE FANELIA'S LOSING ITS WISDOM SEEMS LIKELY, IF THEIR CURRENT PRINCE IS ANY INDICATION.
SO FANELIA'S KNIGHT MACHINE RUNS ON ENERGIST, EH?

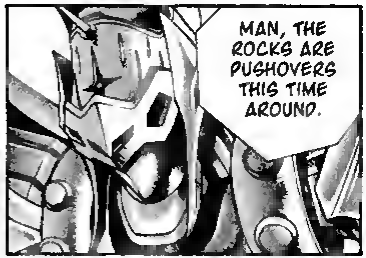
ALLEN.


WE'RE OFF. SEE YA ON THE FLIPSIDE, FOGIE!

IS THAT.. THE GIANT FROM MY VISION?!




IT'S PROBABLY BECAUSE THEY KNOW WE'RE NOT ENEMIES.


MAN, THE ROCKS ARE PUSHOVERS THIS TIME AROUND.

?!
IT'LL BE A RELIEF TO LEAVE RAH DRICK BEHIND.

LEAVE HIM TO ME.
THAT'S ZAIBACH'S TOP ASSASSIN.
THAT LOOKS LIKE ZAIBACH'S KNIGHT OF FLAME
WHAT'S ANOTHER KNIGHT MACHINE DOING HERE?
HUH? WHY?
STEP ASIDE, VAN.
Die, dog!!!!

BASTARD!
A FLAME SHIELD, EH? FIGURES..
HOW THE HELL IS IT STILL STANDING?
WHOA! ALLEN, YOU JERK, HOW'D YOU LEARN TO DO THAT?
?!
WHAT'S GOING ON? ALLEN'S LOSING HIS COOL!

ALLEN, WATCH OUT!
AAGH!
RRGH!

VISION 6:
TRIAL BY FIRE

ALLEN'S TRASHED? SHIT... WE'RE DEAD.

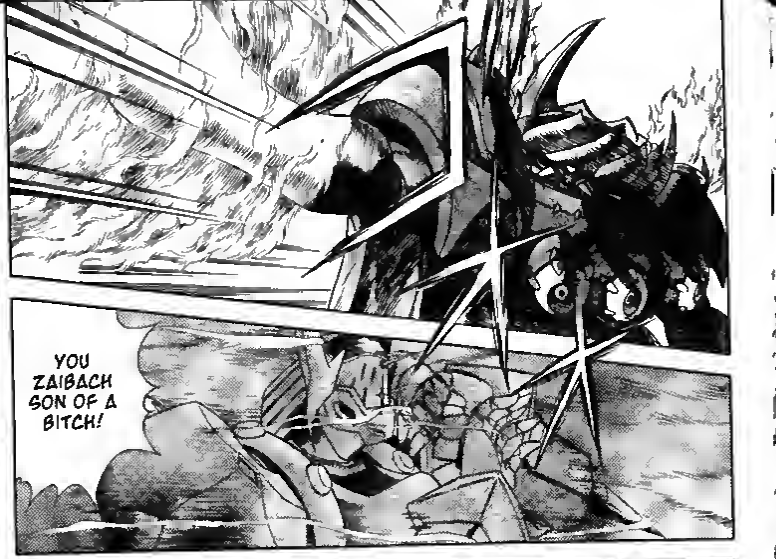
YAGH!
FROM NOW ON, YOU SPEAK TO THE ENERGIST.
THE MAN'S GOOD.
I THINK WE... NEED THE POWER OF THE ENERGIST.
ZAIBACH TRASH!
HANG ON, ALLEN!

YOU THINK I'M DOWN, ASSHOLE?!
PLEASE.. LET ME CONTROL YOU!
PUTTING DOWN HIS GUARD, HUH? CONFIDENT LITTLE PRICK.
IF HE'S TRYING TO PISS ME OFF, IT'S WORKING.
ENERGIST? PLEASE, TRANSFORM ME!
OW!

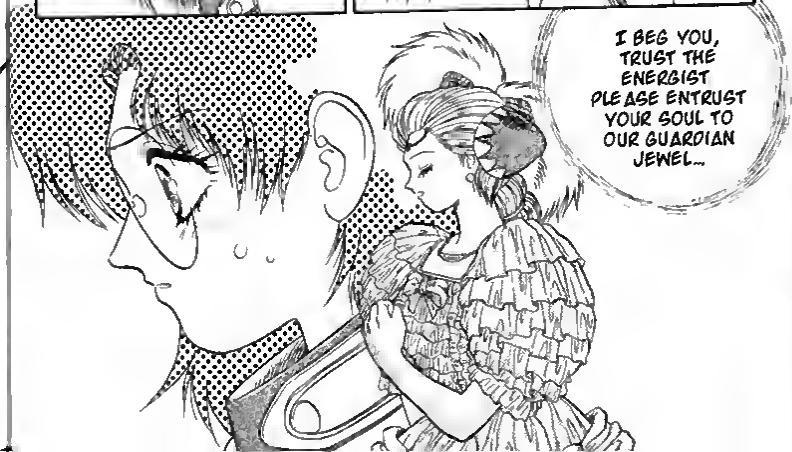
SORTA
HITOMI, YOU OKAY?
THIS ISN'T WORKING. I DON'T THINK I CAN.
AAAH!
QUIT SCREWING AROUND! I'M GONNA WRECK YOU!
clunk
I CAN'T EVEN SCUFF HIM.
AAGH!
?!

SOME-BODY HELP!
WE'RE GONNA FRY!
WAAGH!
SHIT! IT'S HEATING UP. THE COCKPIT'S MELTING.
AAGH!

BUT I'D HAVE TO GIVE UP EVERYTHING TO BECOME ONE WITH IT...
ENTRUST MY SOUL? IT'S NOT ABOUT CONTROL?
NA
ALLEN, YOU'RE ALIVE?
!!


YOU ZAIBACH SON OF A BITCH!

HAVE TO CONTROL...
I HAVE TO CONTROL IT...
WHY CAN'T I TRANSFORM ?!
WHY? ENERGIST, TELL ME!


I BEG YOU, TRUST THE ENERGIST PLEASE ENTRUST YOUR SOUL TO OUR GUARDIAN JEWEL...

ALLEN'S GONNA BLAST HIM AGAIN!
GET READY!
W-WOW, ALLEN
I SWORE I'D PROTECT YOU AND I MEANT IT.
HITOMI... I KEEP MY PROMISES.
IT'S HARD TO KEEP MY EYES OPEN..
sneer
!!
DIE!

PLEASE! ENERGIST!
I'LL ENTRUST MY SOUL.. I'LL GIVE YOU EVERY-THING!
JUST ANSWER ME!
NO!
NOT AGAIN! UGH, CAN THIS GUY DO ANYTHING RIGHT?!
ALLEN, LOOK OUT!

TRY THIS, YOU BURNING METAL ASSWIPE!
YA LIKE THAT? GOOD!
I HAVE TO MERGE WITH IT.
I REALIZED I CAN'T CONTROL THE ENERGIST.
THAT'S WHY MY APPEARANCE CHANGES, IT ALTERS ME.
HITOMI? YOU..YOU DID IT!
!
GOOD WORK! ESCAFLOWNE'S POWERED UP!

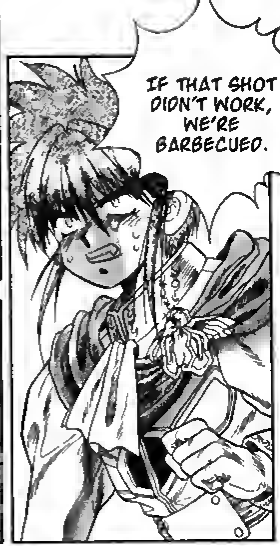
GO TO HELL, FRY-BOY!
NO WAY!

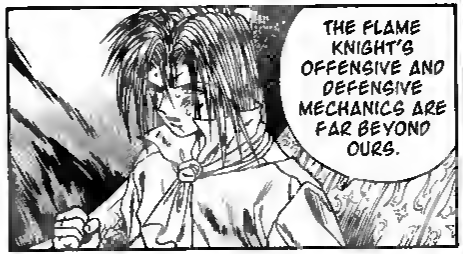
...AND HE ONLY TOOK A DAY TO DO IT.
THAT SOLDIER TOOK OUT THREE ENTIRE CITIES ON HIS OWN.

HE'S EXTREMELY LOYAL TO ZAIBACH AND KILLS THOUGHTLESSLY FOR THEM.

I THINK WE'RE NEXT.

H-HE'S POWERFUL, VAN.


IF THAT SHOT DIDN'T WORK, WE'RE BARBECUED.


THE FLAME KNIGHT'S OFFENSIVE AND DEFENSIVE MECHANICS ARE FAR BEYOND OURS.

GREAT. NOW WHAT?

WE CAN'T DEFEAT IT EVEN AFTER I FUSED WITH THE ENERGIST?

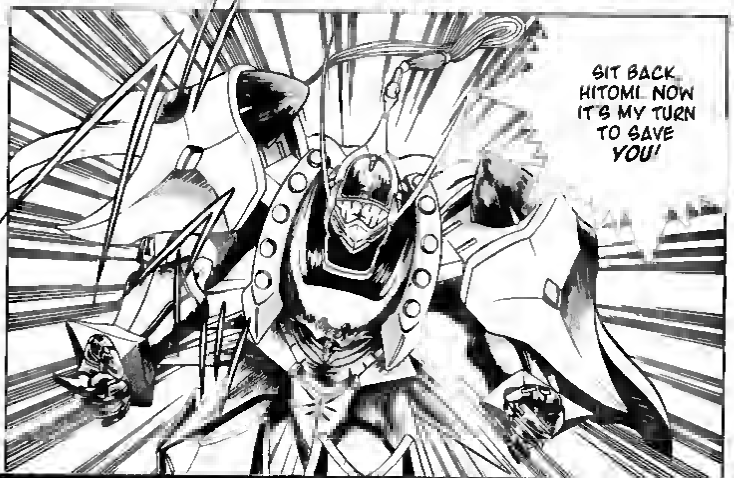
OW!
EH?

I'M PUTTING ALL WE'VE GOT INTO THIS PUNCH!
BASTARD!
WE'RE NOT DONE YET!

GOOD, VAN!
HUH?!
WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO BRUISE THIS GUY?

GAAGH!
HITOMI! HEY!
OOW!

DON'T BE RASH, VAN!
BUT IF YOU THINK THAT MEANS I'M GIVING UP, YOU'RE OUTTA YOUR HEAD!

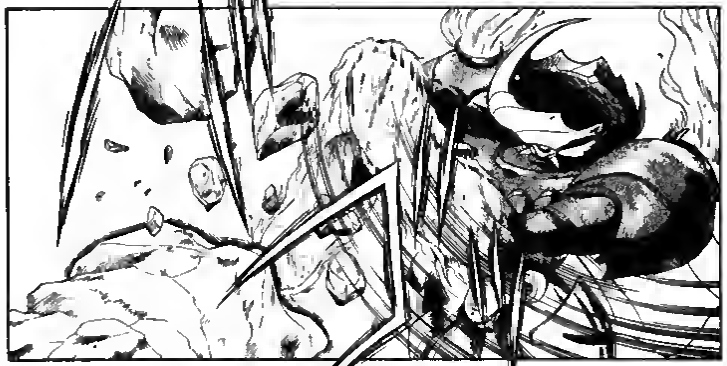

SIT BACK, HITOMI. NOW IT'S MY TURN TO SAVE YOU!

IT'S OKAY. YOU KICKED ASS, HITOMI.
S-SORRY, VAN.
MY BOND... IT BROKE OFF.
huff
huff

WE CAN'T BEAT THE FLAME KNIGHT BECAUSE I CAN'T HANDLE ESCAFLOWNE.
THE PROBLEM HERE ISN'T YOU, IT'S ME.

VAN...

LAGUSU SAID I DEPEND ON YOU TOO MUCH. THE GEEZER WAS RIGHT.



LAGUSU SAID THEY WERE HOMES TO ANCIENT SOULS...
THOSE... THOSE'RE THE ROCKS THAT ATTACKED US EARLIER. THEY'RE PROTECTING US!

VAN, DAUGHTER OF THE ENERGIST...
WHAT?

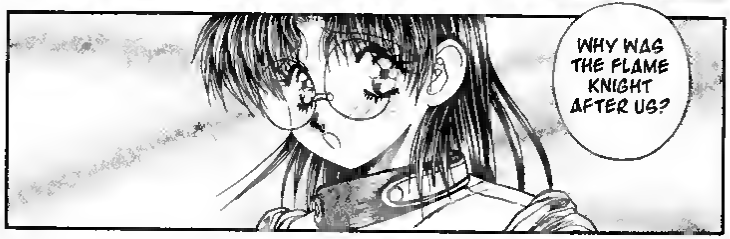
?!
WHAT?!

LISTEN TO ME, CHILDREN.
YOU CANNOT DEFEAT THE KNIGHT OF FLAME WITH YOUR CURRENT ABILITIES.
YOU MUST RETREAT.
YOU MUST, PRINCE VAN.
SWALLOW YOUR PRIDE; THE ROCKS CAN'T HOLD THE KNIGHT FOR LONG.
RUN AWAY? HELL NO!
I'M PRAYING FOR YOU. FOR ALL THREE OF YOU.
MAN, THIS BITES!
LAGUSU'S PROBABLY RIGHT.
YO, ALLEN!
I HEAR YOU. WE CAN REGROUP IN ASTURIA.

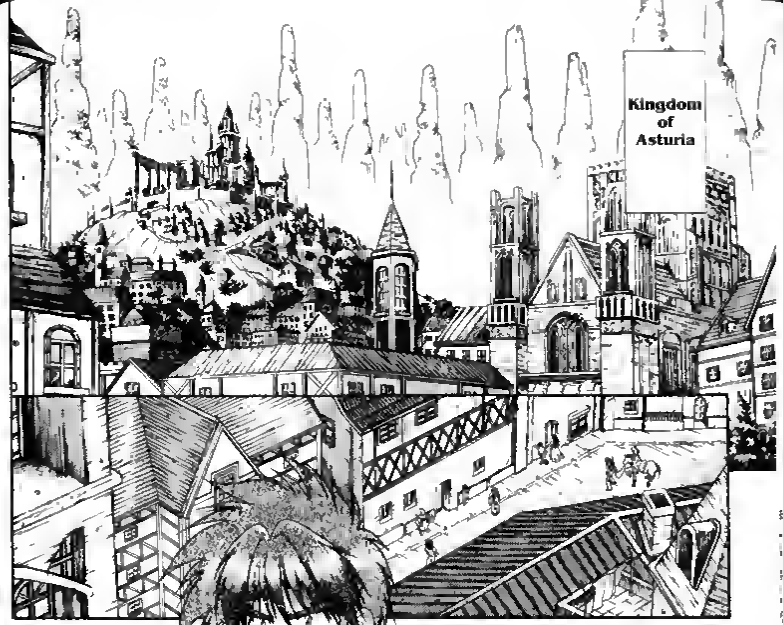
VISION 7: FAMILIAR FACES

VAN'S NOT USED TO GIVING UP. A BLOW TO THE EGO CAN HURT WORSE THAN A BLOW TO THE HEAD WHEN YOU'RE YOUNG.

MY PRINCE HAS BEEN QUITE MOODY SINCE HIS RETURN.

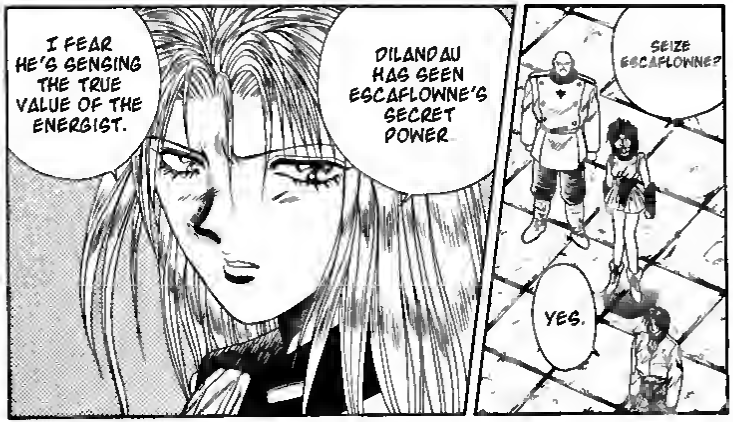

WHY WAS THE FLAME KNIGHT AFTER US?

HE'S UNDER THE COMMAND OF ZAIBACH'S EXECUTIVE CAPTAIN, DILANDAU ALBATOU
HE WAS PROBABLY SENT TO KILL US OR SEIZE ESCAFLOWNE.


Kingdom of Asturia

.....
AH.. SO THIS IS ALLEN'S HOME.

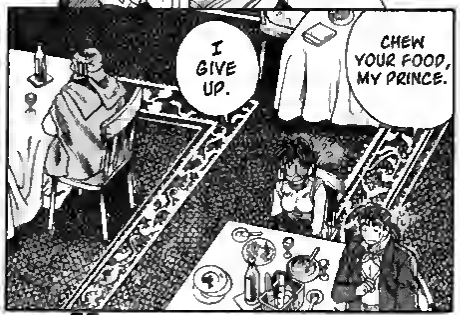
BRING IT, BABY!


I FEAR HE'S SENSING THE TRUE VALUE OF THE ENERGIST.
DILANDAU HAS SEEN ESCAFLOWNE'S SECRET POWER.
SEIZE ESCAFLOWNE?
YES.

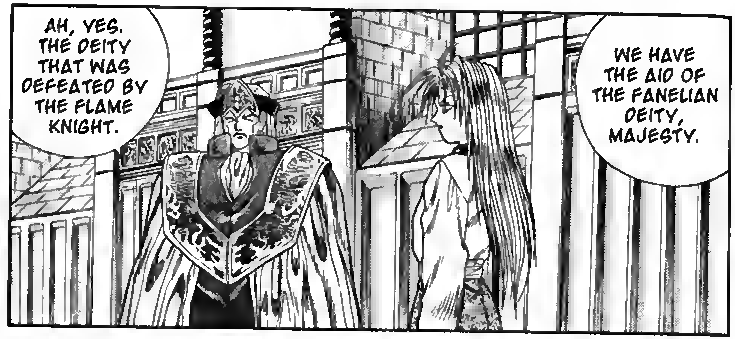
BUT WHAT ABOUT THE FLAME KNIGHT?
THEY'VE PISSED OFF THE WRONG GUY. I'M GONNA TEAR DOWN ZAIBACH MYSELF.
NEXT TIME I'LL BE READY!
HE CAN SHOOT HIS FLAME-THROWERS UP HIS ASS!

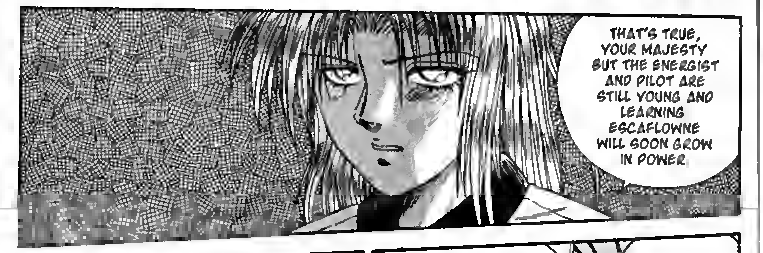
STUPID, GOD-DAMNED SON OF A BITCH!

.....

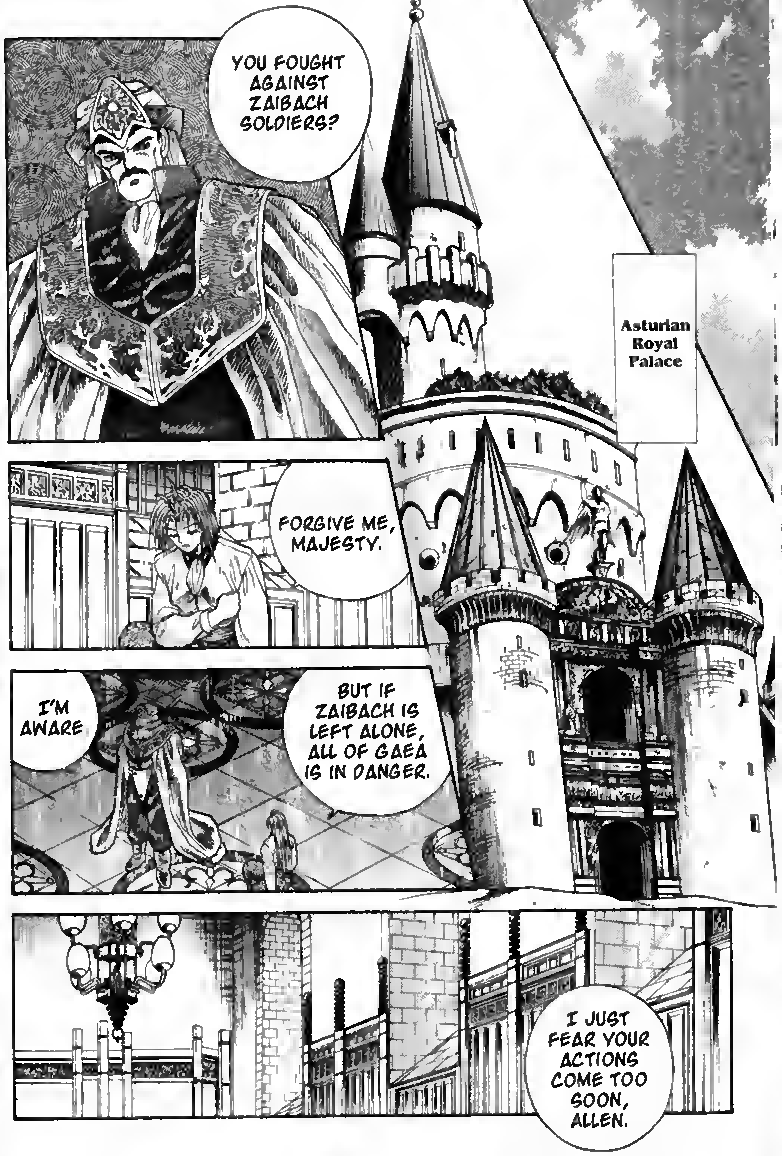

I GIVE UP.
CHEW YOUR FOOD, MY PRINCE.

NOW I FEEL BETTER.


AH, YES. THE DEITY THAT WAS DEFEATED BY THE FLAME KNIGHT.
WE HAVE THE AID OF THE FANELIAN DEITY, MAJESTY.

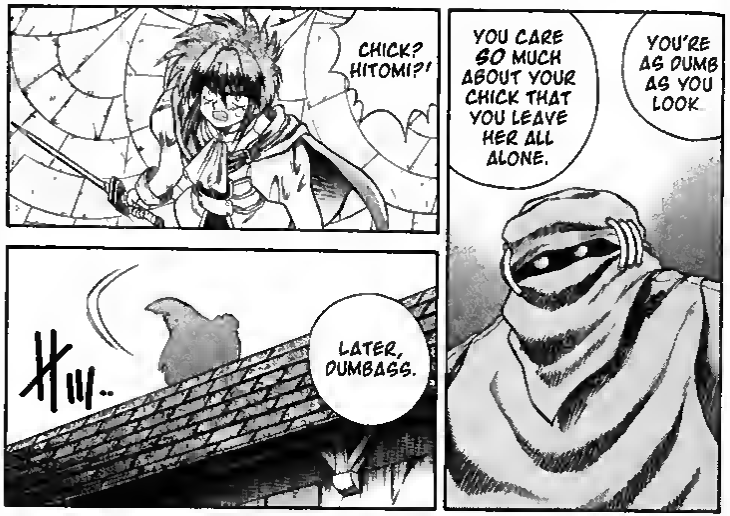

THAT'S TRUE, YOUR MAJESTY BUT THE ENERGIST AND PILOT ARE STILL YOUNG AND LEARNING. ESCAFLOWNE WILL SOON GROW IN POWER.

.....
AND NEITHER DOES MY DAUGHTER.
I'M NOT JUST CONCERNED ABOUT OUR KINGDOM. I DON'T WISH TO LOSE AN EXCELLENT MAN LIKE YOU, ALLEN.
LET ME THINK ON IT.


YOU FOUGHT AGAINST ZAIBACH SOLDIERS?
Asturian Royal Palace
FORGIVE ME, MAJESTY.
I'M AWARE.
BUT IF ZAIBACH IS LEFT ALONE, ALL OF GAEA IS IN DANGER.
I JUST FEAR YOUR ACTIONS COME TOO SOON, ALLEN.

THAT PUNK SWIPED MY ROYAL CREST!
HUH?!
HEY!
YOU! GET BACK HERE!
THAT'S NOT A TRINKET, KID!
HMPH..
THE PALACE, I BELIEVE
WHERE'S ALLEN?
LEAVE HIM BE, VAN!
BENDING OVER BACKWARDS FOR US, IS HE?
I'M FIGHTING FOR FANELIA ASTURIA HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH IT.
?!

shzz!
SHIT!
KISS IT!
IS THIS IMPORTANT TO YOU?
HEY! YOU'RE ASKING FOR IT!
YOU'RE NOT A PRINCE ANYMORE, TURO!
I HATE TO BREAK IT TO YOU, BUT THE KINGDOM OF FANELIA WAS DEMOLISHED.
WHO'RE...
clank


CHICK? HITOMI?!
YOU CARE SO MUCH ABOUT YOUR CHICK THAT YOU LEAVE HER ALL ALONE.
YOU'RE AS DUMB AS YOU LOOK.
HM..
LATER, DUMBASS.

WH-WHAT'S THE MEANING OF THIS?
OH, CRAP.

YOU'RE MINE, FREAK!

swish

WHAT?
NNN...
MY PRINCE, THE LADY--
I KNOW, POKER.
FORGIVE ME.
I HAVE TO GO TO THE WESTSIDE WATER PIPES IF I WANT HITOMI BACK.
IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT. THOSE BASTARDS LEFT A NOTE WITH YOU..

LADY HITOMI!
HEY! AH!
I'M AFRAID I'VE LEFT MY SWORD--
MR. POKER!
AGH!
L-LADY...

I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING OF VALUE, I SWEAR!
WH-WHAT DO YOU WANT FROM ME?

HANG IN THERE, HITOMI. I'M COMING...
THEY NEED A BABYSITTER. HELL, I DON'T KNOW. WHY'RE YOU ASKING ME?!
WHAT DO THEY WANT HER FOR?
IT DOESN'T MATTER, I'M GETTING HER BACK.
THEY PICKED A BAD TIME TO PISS ME OFF. I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR AN ASS TO KICK EVER SINCE THE FLAME KNIGHT!

QUIET! VAN SHOULD BE ALONG ANY TIME NOW. IF HE HEARS YOUR NAGGING HE MAY DECIDE NOT TO RESCUE YOU.
shhk
YOU'RE CRAZY! FANELIA WILL NEVER GIVE IT UP!
WHAT?!
YOU EITHER KEEP YOUR TONGUE STILL OR I GET ME A SOUVENIR. GOT IT?
.....
TRUST ME, YOU REALLY DON'T WANNA SEE VAN WHEN HE'S MAD
ACTUALLY, I'M QUITE LOOKING FORWARD TO WATCHING THAT PIPSQUEAK LOSE ANOTHER FIGHT
ARE YOU IN CHARGE? YOU SHOULD LET ME GO.
QUITE A MOUTH ON THIS ONE.
HUH?
YOU'RE JUST A HOSTAGE TO TRADE, GIRL. WE WANT ESCAFLOWNE.

WHERE'S THE GIRL?
VAN!
HITOMI! YOU OKAY?
ALLOW ME, PRINCE.
I'LL--
I'D LIKE TO SEE HER RUN INTO YOUR ARMS AFTER YOU'VE HAD ONE CUT OFF
YOU'LL HAVE TO FIGHT ME FIRST.
SO, WANT YOUR WOMAN BACK?
RIGHT. GREAT.
DIRTY CRIMINAL!

Chief Lance of Asturia, under Sir Allen Schezar.
YES, I KNOW WHERE THEY ARE. I'LL GUIDE YOU THERE.
THE UNDER-GROUND WATER PIPES?
WE'VE BEEN GETTING COMPLAINTS ABOUT A BAND OF THUGS.
?!
PERHAPS THEY'RE ZAIBACH ASSASSINS.
DO THUGS USUALLY RANSOM GIRLS?

DAMN!
I'VE HAD JUST ABOUT ENOUGH OF EVERYONE THINKING I'M INEPT!
crack
GUGH!
YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE INTERFERED.
THAT'S ENOUGH!
AAAAGH!!

WE DON'T WANT YOUR BULLSHIT SYMPATHY!
I WAS SURE AN ASS LIKE YOU WOULDN'T RECOGNIZE GRAN BALGUS'S DAUGHTER!
AH!
N-NO WAY! YOU?!
SO YOU REMEMBER ME, DO YOU?
DON'T YOU GET IT, PRINCE?!
CUT IT OUT, SHIAN!
SHIAN, THANK GOD YOU'RE ALIVE! ARE THOSE MORE FANELIANS?
HE HAD A DAUGHTER?

OUR QUEEN IS TAKEN...
...AND MY FATHER IS DEAD!
YOU'VE FAILED AS A SOVEREIGN, AND I'M GONNA REMOVE YOU FROM THE THRONE/ PERMANENTLY!
!!
YOU'RE RIGHT. I DESERVE TO DIE FOR MY PEOPLE.

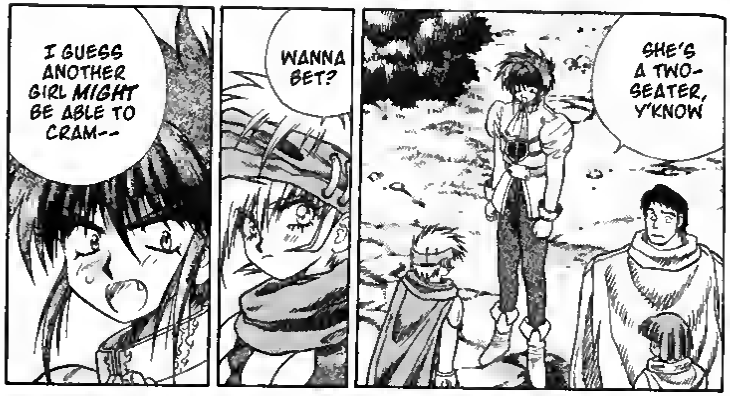
THE REASON FANELIA FELL, THE REASON HER PEOPLE ARE GONE, IS BECAUSE YOU FAILED HER AS A RULER!!!
!!

BUT NOT LIKE THIS, SHIAN. NOT FOR REVENGE.
I WANT ESCAFLOWNE, STRAIGHT UP. FOR THE GIRL'S LIFE.
THEN WHAT DO YOU WANT?
NOTHING YOU CAN SAY WILL EVER MATTER TO ME.
YOU'RE KIDDING ME.
WE'LL RESCUE THE QUEEN.
A COWARD LIKE YOU DOESN'T DESERVE OUR GOD.
WHO SAID ANYTHING ABOUT HEAD ON? WE KNOW A BETTER WAY.
YOU'LL NEVER DEFEAT ZAIBACH HEAD ON.
I GET IT.
CUTE PLAN, GUYS. WOW.
LET ME TELL YOU SOMETHING, SHIAN. YOU CAN'T CONTROL ESCAFLOWNE.
DON'T YOU DARE INSULT US!

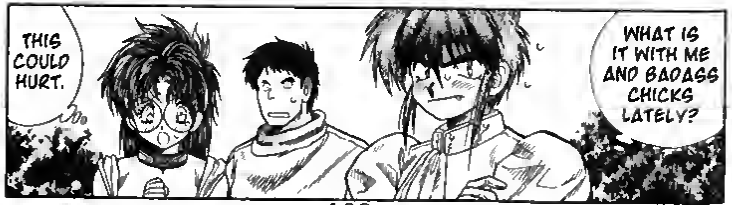
AGG.
HMPH! FORGIVE ME IF I DON'T HOLD MY BREATH.
JUST REMEMBER. I HATE YOU NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS, I WILL NEVER FORGIVE YOU FOR THE DESTRUCTION OF OUR HOME!
ESCAFLOWNE WON'T MOVE WITHOUT HITOMI AND ME!
YOU NEED TWO THINGS TO PILOT HER- A PERSON OF ROYAL BLOOD AND THE CHOSEN ENERGIST!
WHAT?!
THAT TRUE?
SHIAN!
.....
AW, HELL! C'MON, WE'RE BRINGING SHORTY TO ZAIBACH..
BUT, SHIAN!
WATCH ME, SHIAN I'LL AVENGE FANELIA..
..AND RESCUE HER QUEEN!
I WANT MY MOTHER BACK MORE THAN ANYONE.
!!

VISION 8:
SINGLE PASSAGE

WITH ANY LUCK, THEY'LL KILL YOU AND SAVE US THE TROUBLE OF HAVING TO DO IT LATER.
I JUST HOPE THEY MAKE IT SLOW!
RELAX. IT'LL BE OKAY.
VAN, ARE YOU SURE ABOUT THIS?
WE DON'T STAND A CHANCE!
NO...
RELAX? HOW CAN I RELAX WHEN WE'RE GOING TO ZAIBACH?!


I GUESS ANOTHER GIRL MIGHT BE ABLE TO CRAM--
WANNA BET?
SHE'S A TWO-SEATER, Y'KNOW

I'M RIDING WITH YOU.
YOU BET YOUR ASS, PRINCEY-BOY.
grin
NOT ME?


THIS COULD HURT.
WHAT IS IT WITH ME AND BADASS CHICKS LATELY?

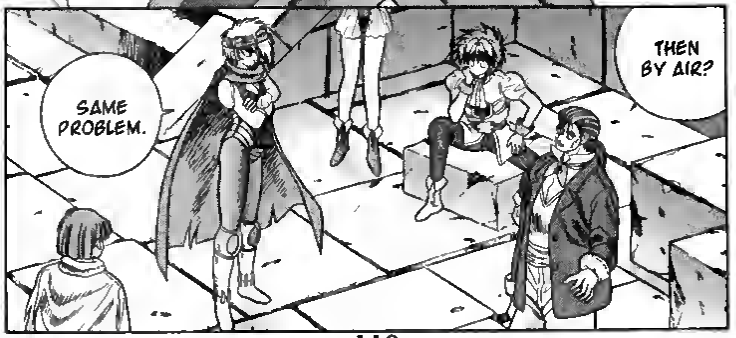
THERE SHE IS... ESCAFLOWNE

WE'RE GOING BY SEA.
CALM DOWN!
WRONG AGAIN, IDIOT.
OKAY, THEN A TUNNEL? QUIT MAKING US GUESS.

BY SEA? HOW?

WE'LL USE THEIR POLLUTING WAYS TO BITE THEM IN THE ASS.
ZAIBACH DUMPS UNWANTED FUEL REMAINING INTO THE SEA THROUGH A LONG DRAINAGE PIPE.

IF WE GO BY LAND..
THEY'LL SPOT US AND TAKE US DOWN.
JUST HOW *ARE* WE GONNA BREACH ZAIBACH?


SAME PROBLEM.
THEN BY AIR?

WE HAVE A WARRANT OF ARREST FOR THIS GANG.
.. WOULDN'T THAT PIPE LEAD RIGHT TO ZAIBACH HEAD-QUARTERS?
I GUESS, BUT...
IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE
IS IT A CULTURAL THING?
I'M CAUTIOUS! YOU'RE AS BAD AS VAN!
SO YOU'RE SCARED.
WHY? WE DIDN'T DO ANYTHING TO YOU!
HEY!
PRINCE, DON'T!
RRGH!
LET HER GO! SHE'S WITH ME!
DON'T RESIST US!
WHAT'S UP?

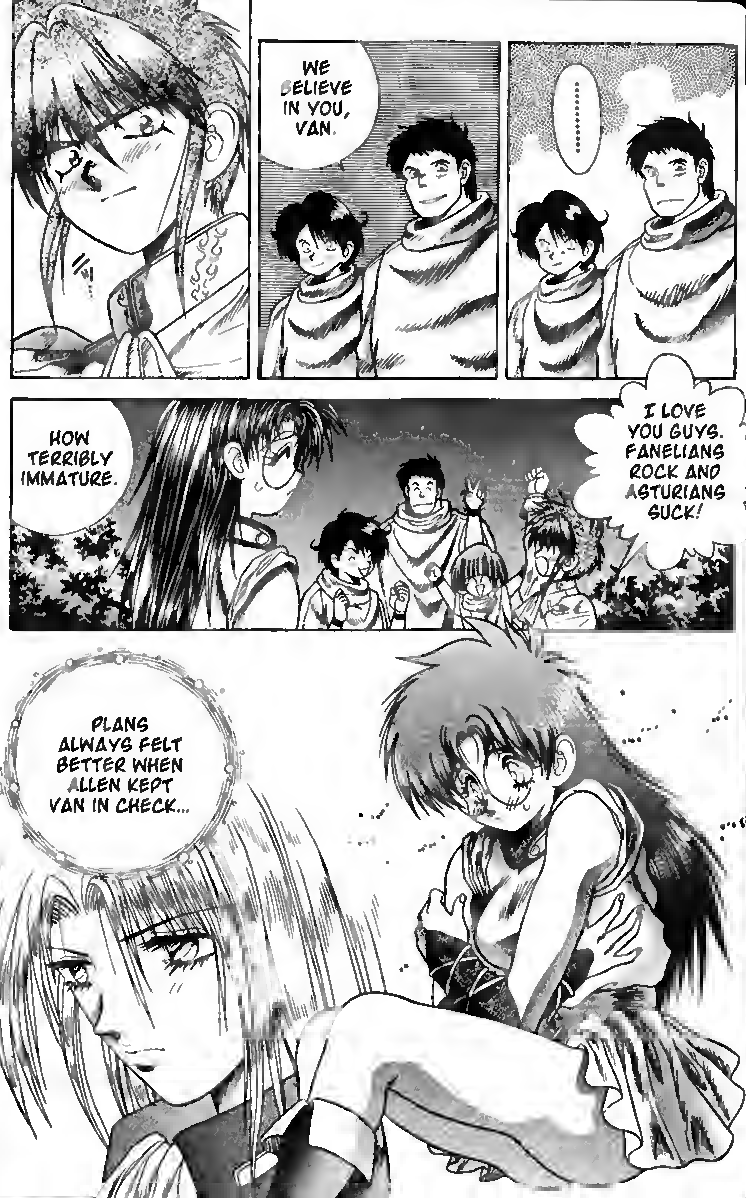
WHAT'RE YOU TRYING TO PULL?
HUH? WHY'D HE...
IT'S UNDER THE ORDER OF SIR ALLEN SCHEZAR.
OH CRAP! SHIAN!
VAN, A LITTLE HELP?!
THAT FRICKIN' IDIOT!
DO YOU HONESTLY THINK YOU CAN GO TO ZAIBACH NOW?
LANCE FILLED ME IN ON THE DETAILS.
YOU'RE BEING WAY TOO RASH WITH YOUR LIFE, VAN!
I'M NOT GOING WITHOUT YOUR SORRY ASS! JUST HANG ON!
GET TO ZAIBACH AND SAVE OUR QUEEN..
OR I'LL POUND YOU FLAT!
DON'T THINK THIS GETS YOU OFF THE HOOK!

...I WISH FOR THE REFUGEES' FREEDOM, SIR ALLEN.
?!
YOU'RE RIGHT, BUT...
THIS ISN'T YOUR BATTLE, SIR ALLEN. LET THEM FIGHT AS THEY WISH.
I BELIEVE THAT'S THE ASTURIAN PRINCESS, HIGHNESS.
MILLERNA ...
NO COUNTRY IS DEAD IF ITS RULER STILL LIVES.
YOU'RE A PRINCE, VAN. FANELIA NEEDS YOU.
AND THAT'S YOUR PROBLEM.
AGH!
I'LL LIVE IT HOW I DAMN WELL PLEASE!
IT'S MY LIFE, ALLEN!
I'M PREPARING FOR THE BATTLE WITH ZAIBACH. IF YOU WAIT, ALL THE KNIGHTS CAELI WILL BE BY YOUR SIDE.
WELL...
I SEE. HOW DO YOU FEEL, HITOMI?
IT'S EASY FOR YOU TO SAY WE SHOULD WAIT!
YOUR MOTHER ISN'T IN ENEMY HANDS!

grab
HITOMI, YOU DON'T HAVE TO...
IF YOUR MOM'S EVER KIDNAPPED, I'LL BE SURE TO SEND MY BEST KNIGHTS HERE TO ADVISE YOU TO WAIT...
GOODBYE, ALLEN. THANKS SO MUCH FOR YOUR HELP. I'LL HAVE TO RETURN THE FAVOR ONE OF THESE DAYS
"O"
WE'RE REALLY LEAVING?

HHH
OH.
LISTEN TO YOUR GIRL-FRIEND.
SHE WANTS YOU HOME, AND THAT'S FINE WITH ME.
I'LL TAKE SHIAN AND LEAVE FOR GOOD.
I'M A PRINCE, DICK. WATCH YOUR GOODAMN MOUTH
HEY!
DAMMIT, VAN!

SIR ALLEN, WHY MUST YOU INVOLVE YOURSELF WITH FOREIGN PROBLEMS?
YOU HAVE A GENTLE HEART.
BUT PLEASE... IF YOU WERE TO DIE, WHAT WOULD ASTURIA DO WITHOUT YOU?
WHAT WOULD I DO WITHOUT YOU?
I'M JUST SICK OF YOU REJECTING EVERYONE'S HELP.
PLUS, HE CAN'T FIGHT WORTH SHIT
THIS IS A FANELIAN PROBLEM. NOT HIS.
IT'S FINE.
IS IT WISE TO SEVER TIES WITH HIM?
WHAT, YOU MISS HIM ALREADY?
THAT GIRL WAS A PRINCESS. WAS SHE ALLEN'S WIFE?
HMPH!


WE BELIEVE IN YOU, VAN.
.....
I LOVE YOU GUYS. FANELIANS ROCK AND ASTURIANS SUCK!
HOW TERRIBLY IMMATURE.
PLANS ALWAYS FELT BETTER WHEN ALLEN KEPT VAN IN CHECK...

ASTURIAN JAILBREAK. IT FEELS GOOD JUST SAYING IT!
THANKS! I'LL GET HER OUT AS FAST AS I CAN.
I'LL KEEP WATCH FOR YOU.
SO THIS IS THE LAYOUT?
WHOA! NO NEED FOR TITLES, CHICKIE.
WILL YOU BE ALL RIGHT, PRINCE?
SHIAN'S RIGHT. I DON'T DESERVE TO BE A PRINCE RIGHT NOW. NOT TO YOU GUYS.

Feh.
STUPID VAN.
HE'S SO FULL OF IT. HE'S NOT COMING FOR ME.
?!
creak
YOU MAY GO.
ER, YES.
SIR ALLEN SAYS IT'S TIME TO CHANGE THE GUARD.
PRINCESS MILLERNA?

SHIAN, WAS IT? I'D LIKE TO SPEAK WITH YOU.
YOU DON'T SAY...
ALL RIGHT, LET'S GO.
rustle

SIR ALLEN SENT US. HE ASSUMED YOU WOULD TRY TO FREE YOUR FRIEND.
NOW THEN, PLEASE COME THIS WAY.
BITE ME, LANCE!
UH, VAN. YOU MIGHT WANT TO TRY BREATHING, DUDE.
HGH GGLGH!
KILL YOU! KILL YOU!
YEAH... SHIAN'S BETTER AT THIS SORT OF THING.
CAPTURED IN JUST UNDER A MINUTE THAT HAS GOT TO BE SOME SORT OF RECORD.
AWW, HELL.
WE'LL BE SAFE IF WE GO AROUND BACK.
ARE YOU SURE?
OH CRAP...
PRINCE VAN!
ONE GUARD'S EASY ENOUGH TO KNOCK OUT.
UM, OOPS?

SUCK IT, PANSY!
SHIAN! WHAT'RE YOU--
AAGH!
DETAILS LATER. WE'VE GOTTA FLY!
YOU GOT IT.
Hrrass
HERE!
LATER, GUYS.
AFTER HER!
ERG!

SIR ALLEN, WAIT!
PLEASE... YOU'RE MY FIANCÉE!
I KNOW.
.....
LET THEM BE.
THEIR COUNTRY HAS FALLEN, SIR ALLEN.
MILLERNA, WHY DID YOU LET SHIAN FREE?!
LANCE FIND OUT WHERE VAN AND THE OTHERS WENT.
!!
YES, SIR.
I'M SORRY.

I'LL FREE YOU SOON, I SWEAR.
HANG ON, MOTHER. I'M ON MY WAY.

ZAIBACH'S GONNA REGRET SCREWING WITH FANELIA!

WE SET OUT TOMORROW AT DAWN. OKAY?
SHE'S HARD TO FIGURE.
?

THE PRINCESS LET YOU OUT?

YEAH ZAIBACH'LL NEVER KNOW WHAT HIT 'EM.

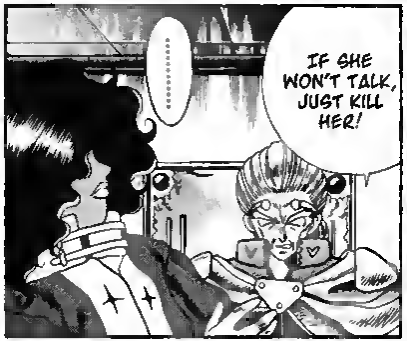
THAT'S WHAT I'M WORRIED ABOUT.
I'LL PROTECT YOU!
OH, JUST TAKE IT EASY, 'KAY?
HA HA HA!
VAN?
WHAT'S UP, HITOMI?

I HOPE IT'S JUST NERVES...
I'VE GOT A BAD FEELING ABOUT THIS.

HMPH!

Zaibach Empire

JUST NOT YET.
THE WOMAN WILL DIE.


IF SHE WON'T TALK, JUST KILL HER!

DILANDAU, WHY BOTHER KEEPING QUEEN ESCALINA ALIVE?

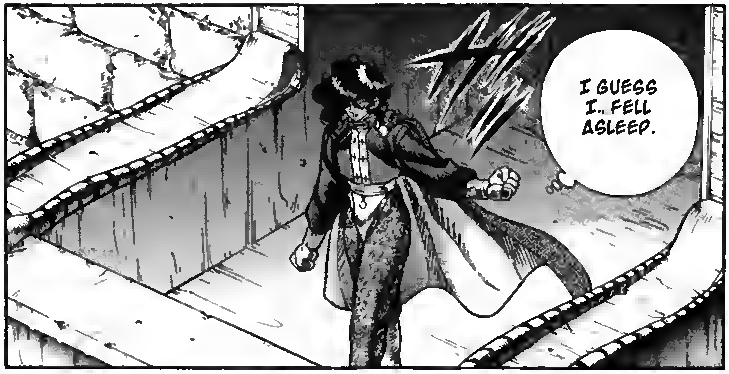
SHE WILL SING THAT PURIFYING SONG FOR ME.
ONE LAST TIME...

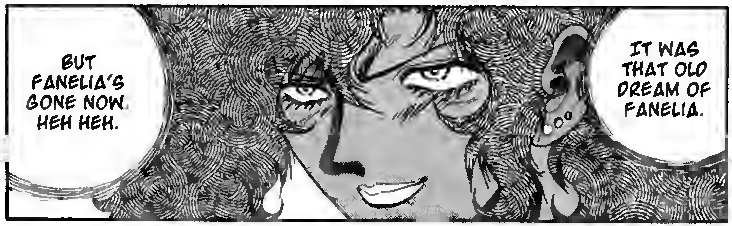
I MUST ASK YOU TO LEAVE, MARSHAL GELGURAN.
THESE ARE MY QUARTERS.

DON'T MAKE ME QUESTION YOUR LOYALTIES, BOY. DO YOU PITY HER BECAUSE YOU'RE PANELIAN?

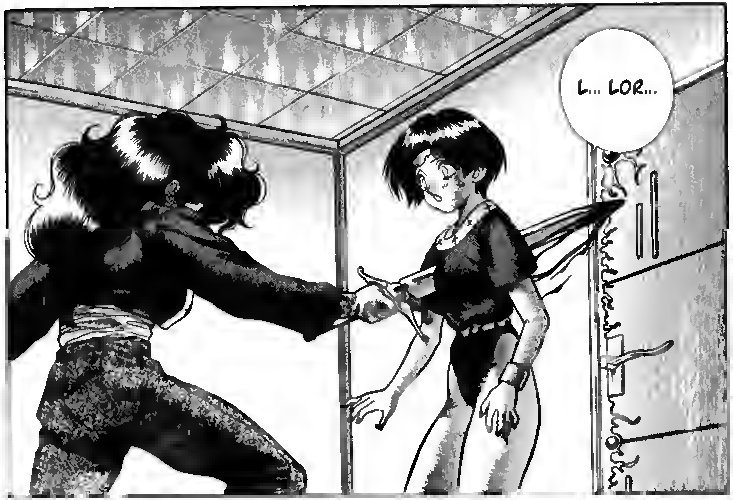
MOTHER?
MOTHER...

LORD DILANDAU? I'VE BROUGHT YOUR TEA.
HAH
HUFF
shh!
I HAVE SOMETHING FOR YOU, DEAR
WHAT'S WRONG?
WAAAAH!


I GUESS I.. FELL ASLEEP.


BUT FANELIA'S GONE NOW. HEH HEH.
IT WAS THAT OLD DREAM OF FANELIA.

I'VE DESTROYED THAT MISERABLE PIT.
AND WITH IT, MY HAUNTING PAST.


L... LOR...

HEH ..
HA HA..

VISION 9:
ZAIBACH INFILTRATION

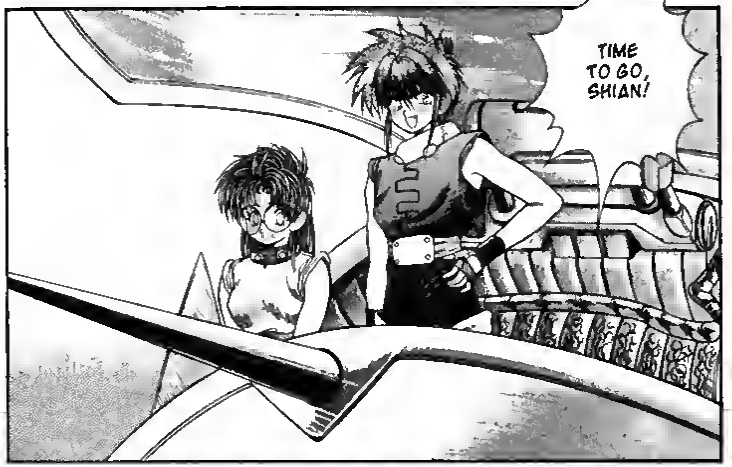
WHAT?
YOU REMIND ME OF FANELIA.
STARE AT ME, LITTLE BIRD?
I HATE BEING REMINDED OF FANELIA.
BE CAREFUL, LITTLE BIRD. YOU'RE MAKING KITTY ANGRY!

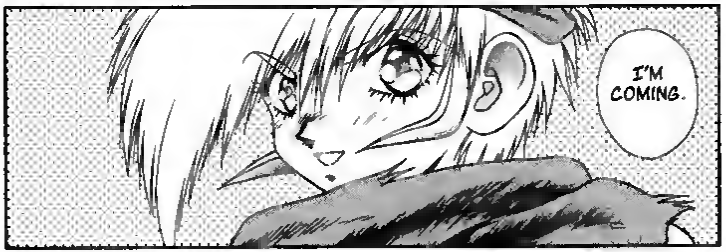
IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE YOU'RE REALLY LEAVING!
SINCE RESCUING US, WE'VE FOUGHT ALONGSIDE YOU

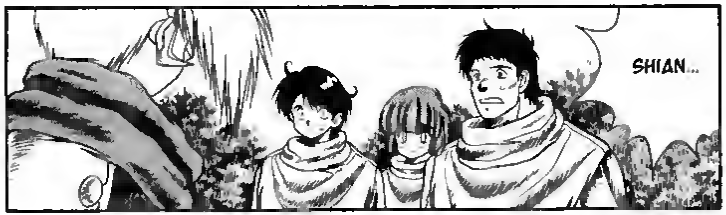
MMN...

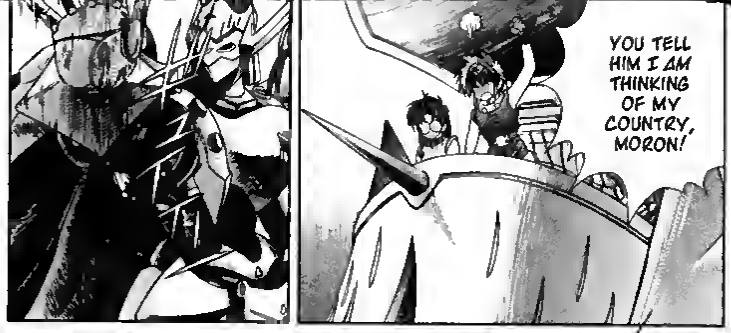
AW MAN, YOU GUYS
W-WE'LL BE HERE.
WAITING FOR YOU TO COME BACK!

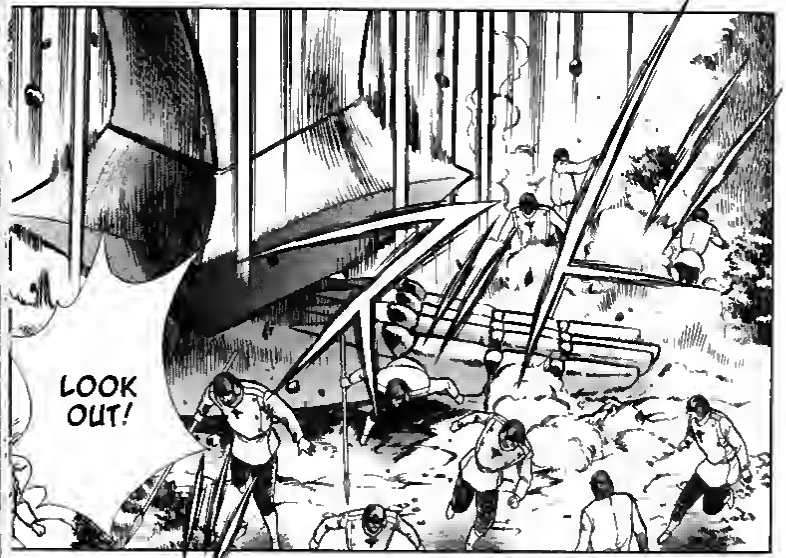
DON'T WORRY, KIDS. I'LL BE BACK SOON.


TIME TO GO, SHIAN!


I'M COMING.


SHIAN...


YOU TELL HIM I AM THINKING OF MY COUNTRY, MORON!


LOOK OUT!

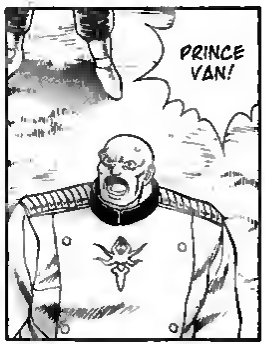
INSOLENT LITTLE BRAT...
NO! EVERYONE PULL BACK!

NOT AGAIN! GOD DAMN IT.

STOP RIGHT THERE!

THANKS, GUYS!
SHIAN, GET ONBOARD ESCAFLOWNE!
LEAVE THEM TO US.
grip

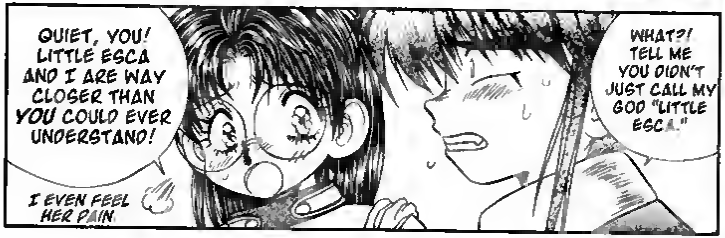
SIR ALLEN TOLD YOU TO THINK OF YOUR COUNTRY!

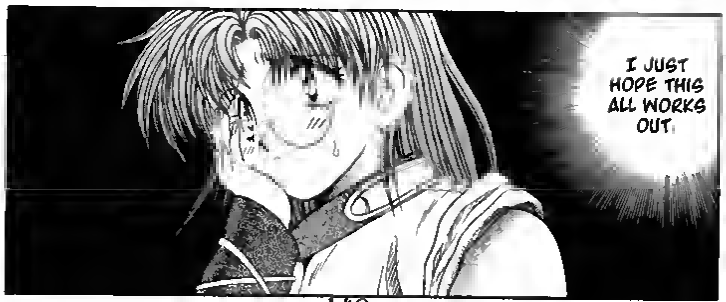

PRINCE VAN!

DELIVER US, ESCAFLOWNE!
I'LL COME BACK..
..AND BUY YOU A DRINK.
YOU GOT IT, LANCE
TAKE US TO ZAIBACH!
IF YOU WON'T LISTEN TO SENSE, THEN . PLEASE JUST RETURN ALIVE!
PRINCE VAN!
HOP ON, SHIAN!
THERE'S NO REASONING WITH HIM.
HMM... THAT WAS KINDA SWEET.

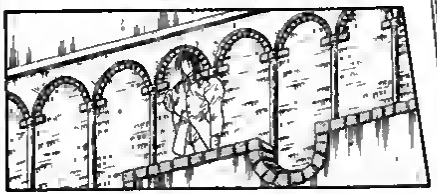
YOU'RE SO GOOD TO US.
I'M SORRY, LITTLE ESCA.

HEY, WATCH YOUR HANDS, JERK!
OH, MOVE OFF! I HAVEN'T TOUCHED YOU!


QUIET, YOU! LITTLE ESCA AND I ARE WAY CLOSER THAN YOU COULD EVER UNDERSTAND!
I EVEN FEEL HER PAIN.
WHAT?! TELL ME YOU DIDN'T JUST CALL MY GOD "LITTLE ESCA."


I JUST HOPE THIS ALL WORKS OUT.

GOOD LUCK, PRINCE. TAKE CARE OF LADY HITOMI.



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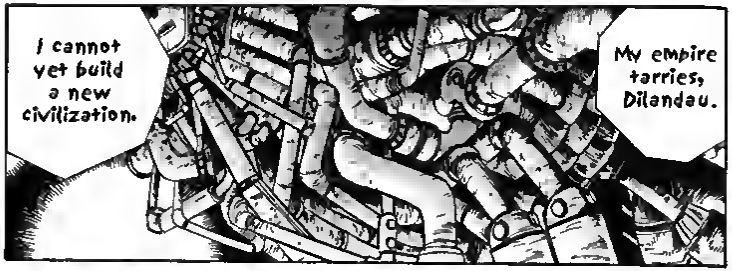
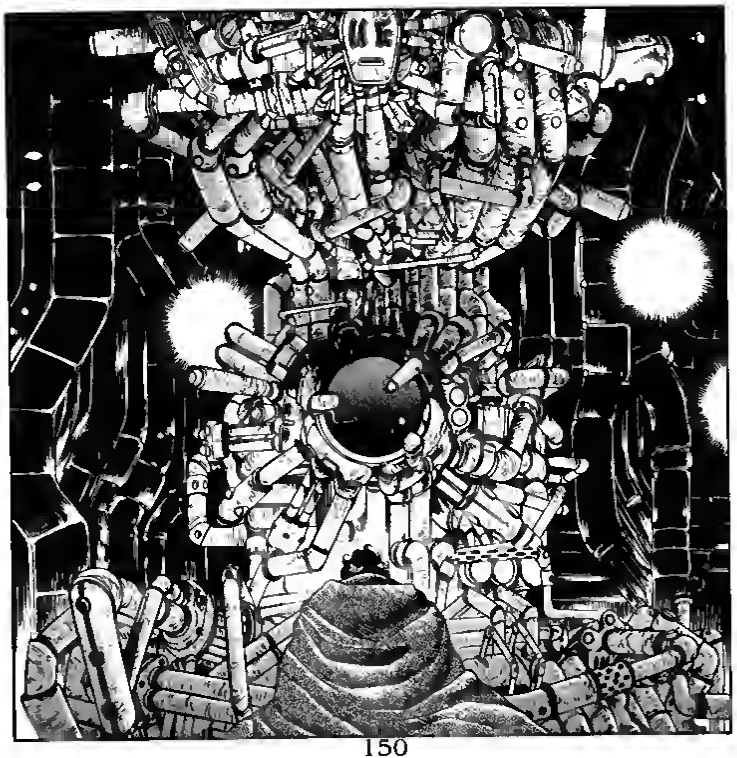
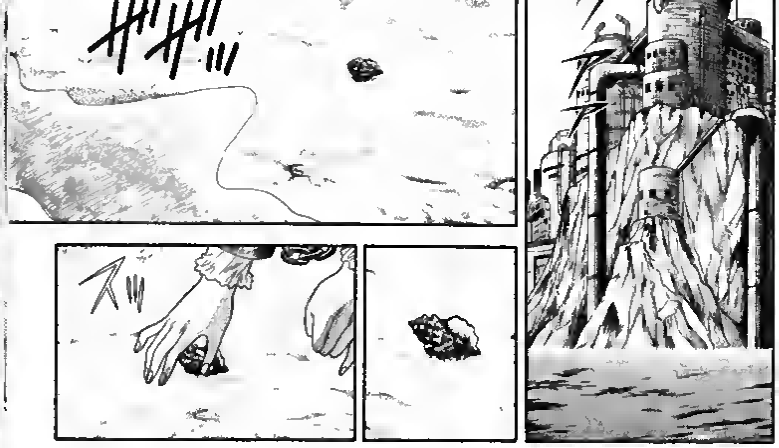

I cannot yet build a new civilization.
My empire tarries, Dilandau.

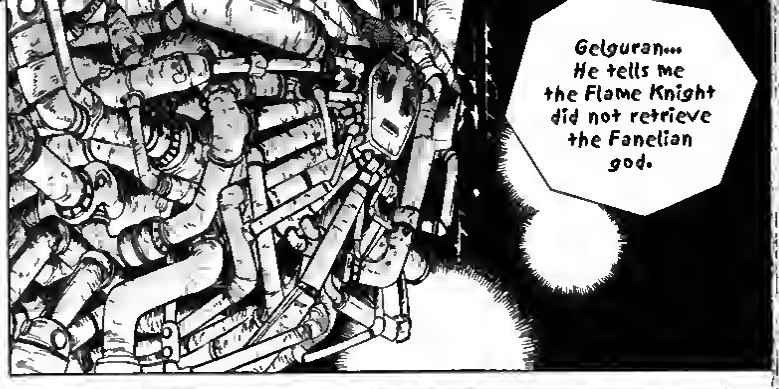
I need fuel. FUEL.

Find me where the ultimate power lies!
Find me my energy!

Castle Dornkirk

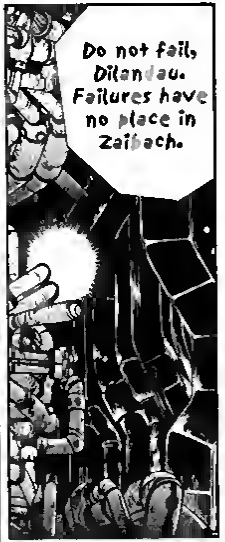





Gelguran... He tells me the Flame Knight did not retrieve the Fanelian god.

I JUST NEED A LITTLE MORE TIME, EMPEROR DORNKIRK.

.....


Do not fail, Dilandau. Failures have no place in Zaibach.

Leave me now.

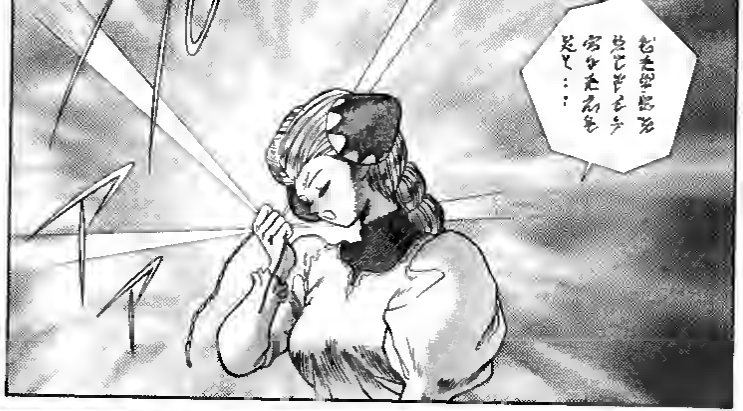
.....

WHAT A BEAUTIFUL SHELL.
FOR WHAT?
THANK YOU, DILANDAU.

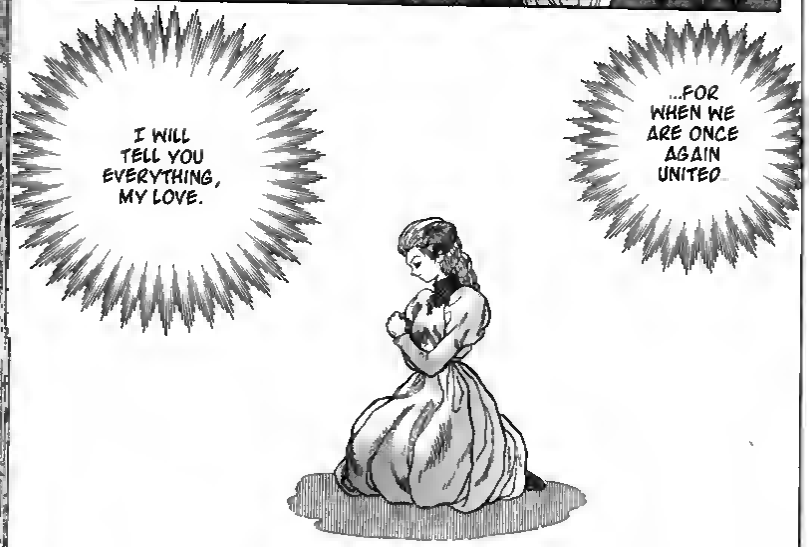
!!
I KILLED MY OWN MOTHER, WOMAN.
I KILLED HER AND I LOVED IT. THE MOMENT THAT WITCH DIED, JOY OVERTOOK ME.
THE UNPARALLELED JOY OF FREEDOM

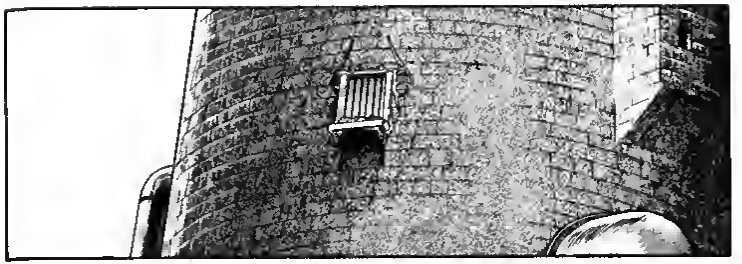
NO, MY DEAR. IT IS BECAUSE YOU HAVE A GENTLE HEART.
FOR GRANTING MY REQUEST FOR A STROLL ON THE BEACH.
IT WAS ON A WHIM.
GENTLE HEART? ME?

I HOPE HE DOES COME FOR YOU.
THIS TIME, I'LL BURY HIM.
YOU'RE MINE AND NO ONE ELSE'S, QUEEN ESCALINA
AFRAID? DON'T BE STUPID.
I FEAR NOTHING.
.....
WHAT ARE YOU AFRAID OF?
.....
DO YOU THINK YOUR FOOLISH SON WILL COME TO SAVE YOU?
I WOULD RATHER DIE THAN SEE HIM RISK HIS LIFE.
I HOPE HE DOES NOT.
FILTHY LYING WHORE! YOU PRAY FOR HIS ARRIVAL!
YOU ALWAYS GAZE AT FANELIA, FAR ACROSS THE OCEAN'S EXPANSE.

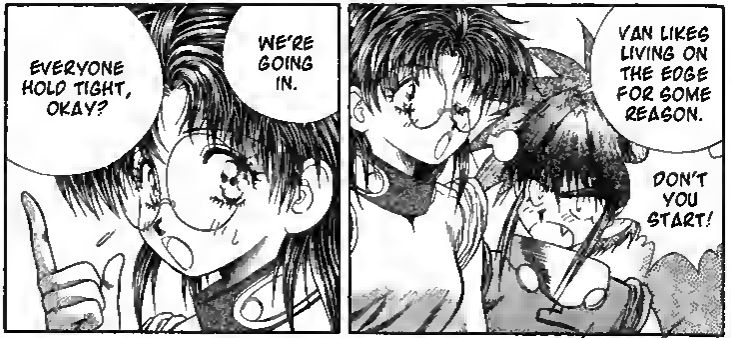


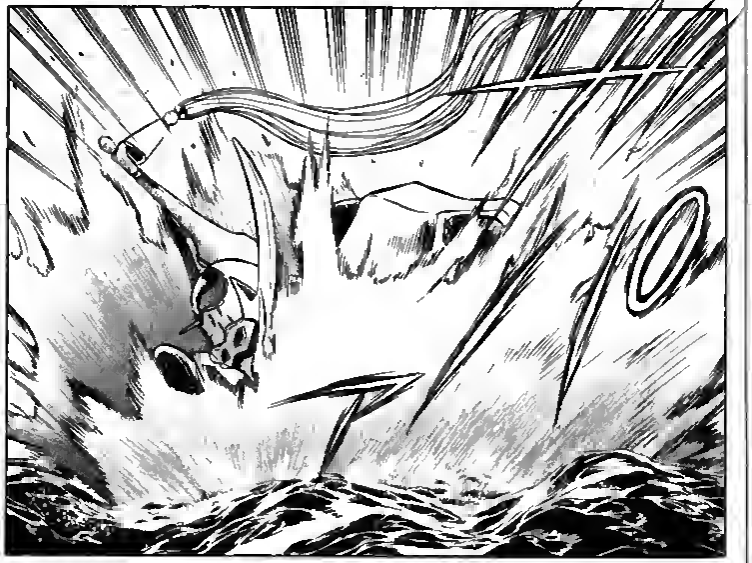
VAN, I LEAVE THIS STONE OF MEMORY..

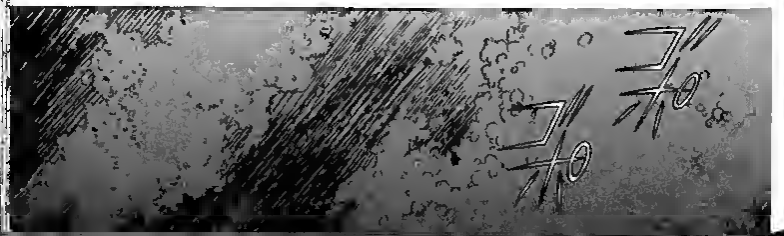

I WILL TELL YOU EVERYTHING, MY LOVE.
...FOR WHEN WE ARE ONCE AGAIN UNITED



I HOPE HE DOES COME FOR YOU. THIS TIME, I'LL BURY HIM.


EVERYONE HOLD TIGHT, OKAY?
WE'RE GOING IN.
VAN LIKES LIVING ON THE EDGE FOR SOME REASON.
DON'T YOU START!





WE'RE APPROACHING ZAIBACH AIRSPACE WE'D BETTER DIVE
NOT BAD. CHECK OUT OUR SPEED!

UM... YEAH. PROBABLY.
SHE CAN DIVE, RIGHT?

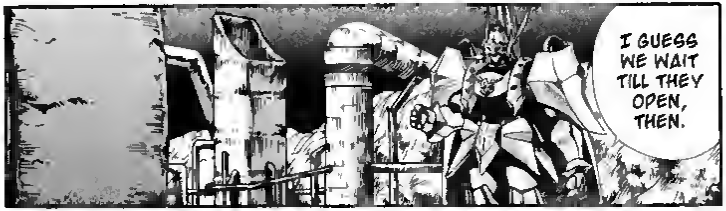
DO YOU SEE FLIPPERS ON THIS THING?! WE'RE STILL LEARNING ITS CAPABILITIES!
YOU DON'T KNOW? OOLT!

SO WE HAVE TO DO THIS AT THE RIGHT MOMENT.
TIMING?
OUR TIMING SEEMS GOOD.
THE DRAINAGE PIPE IS ONLY OPENED FOR A SHORT WHILE AFTER SUNSET.
IT SHOULD BE UP AHEAD.
grrah
YES. IF WE DON'T PLAN THIS OUT, WE'LL NEVER GET IN
!!
NOT DEAD. GOOD SIGN.
TAKE US IN, ESCAFLOWNE!

IT'S FRICKIN' HUGE!

DID YOU HEAR SOME--
AAAGH!

IDIOT, THINK! THAT'D SET OFF THE ALARMS.
CAN'T WE JUST FORCE THE DOOR?

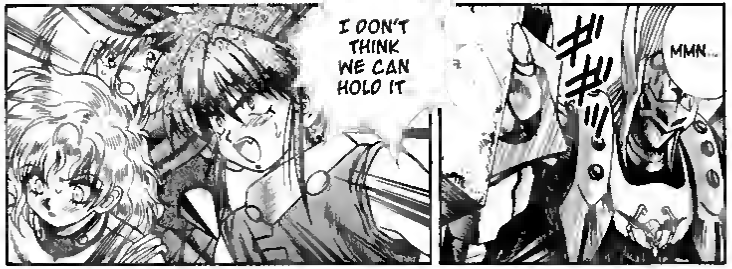

I GUESS WE WAIT TILL THEY OPEN, THEN.

WHAT IS THAT THING?
THE DIDE'S OPENING!
MOVE IT, SHIAN!
THEY PUT MECHANICAL GUARDS DOWN HERE?

THEY'RE EVERY-WHERE!
LET GO, DAMMIT!
AGH!
RIGHT! LEAVE IT TO ME!
FORGET THIS. WE'RE GOING!
KEEP OUR SPEED UP, HITOMI.

EAT IT, ASS-HOLES!
CRAP, WE'RE SCREWED!
IT'S CLOSING ALREADY?
HERE WE GO...
THANKS
YOU'RE GETTING BETTER AT THIS, HITOMI
ATTA GIRL!
WHAT THE HELL?!

To be continued...


I DON'T THINK WE CAN HOLO IT
MMN...

HEY, Q-QUIT CLOGING! SHIT!!!

Author's Notes

Hey, Katsu Aki here. I hope you're enjoying this manga version of the extensive Escaflowne anime project. Based on the original concepts by Mr. Shoji Kawamori (by the way, sorry for all the trouble Mr. Kawamori), both an anime version and a manga version of Esca have been created; yet those versions ended up creating two separate and distinct worlds (though the mecha designs for the manga were done entirely by Mr. Kawamori). Although this manga's had its difficulties, I'm up for the challenge and intend to go forward at full speed.

Though I guess that's something to be expected and nothing much to be proud of. Hmm...

Anyhow, details follow in the next volume. See you then!

Dec. 1995

In the next volume of

THE · VISION · OF
ESCAFLOWNE

Hitomi, Van, and Shian strike back at Zaibach, but Van's lust for vengeance may cost them their advantage...and their lives. Hitomi struggles to master her mysterious powers while Van races against time to save his captive mother from the sadistic Dilandau.

In the next exciting volume of THE VISION OF ESCAFLOWNE.

On sale soon!

A MESSAGE FROM THE STAFF

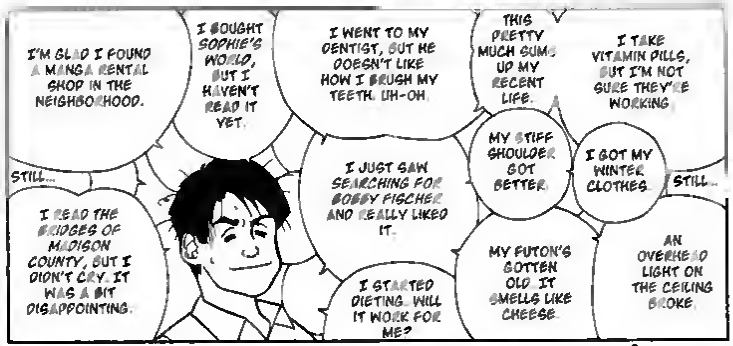
FROM THE CONTRIBUTING WRITERS.. AND, ALTHOUGH HE'S NOT IN HERE, MR. TERASHIMA (WHO'S ALSO PART OF OUR MAIN GROUP). THANKS!

YÔICHI ITO

MY HEART QUICKENS WHEN I DO THINGS LIKE AN ADULT. I GUESS I SHOULD REMEMBER THAT I'VE COME OF AGE.
MONTH O, DAY X CLOUDY. ASSISTANT TANAKA
BECAUSE WE FINISHED WORK EARLY TODAY, WE ENDED UP DANCING WITH MASKS ON!
HA HA HA!
DISCO BALL!
HAPPINESS!

OSAMU TANAKA

SHÛICHI KOBAYASHI


I'M GLAD I FOUND A MANGA RENTAL SHOP IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD.
I BOUGHT SOPHIE'S WORLD, BUT I HAVEN'T READ IT YET.
I WENT TO MY DENTIST, BUT HE DOESN'T LIKE HOW I BRUSH MY TEETH. UH-OH.
THIS PRETTY MUCH SUMS UP MY RECENT LIFE.
I TAKE VITAMIN PILLS, BUT I'M NOT SURE THEY'RE WORKING.
STILL...
I JUST SAW SEARCHING FOR BOBBY FISCHER AND REALLY LIKED IT.
MY STIFF SHOULDER GOT BETTER.
I GOT MY WINTER CLOTHES.
STILL...
I READ THE BRIDGES OF MADISON COUNTY, BUT I DIDN'T CRY. IT WAS A BIT DISAPPOINTING.
I STARTED DIETING. WILL IT WORK FOR ME?
MY FUTON'S GOTTEN OLD. IT SMELLS LIKE CHEESE.
AN OVERHEAD LIGHT ON THE CEILING BROKE.

MASAO ÔKAWA

HIROYUKI AOI